

57. (Amended) Gas microbubbles comprising an amphiphilic surfactant capable of forming gas-containing microbubbles, the microbubbles containing a biocompatible ^{fluorine-containing} ~~halogenated~~ gas [or air] are bounded by a gas/liquid interface which comprises phospholipid as the amphiphilic surfactant [at least one saturated phospholipid in lamellar or laminar form].

72. (Amended) A process as claimed in claim 71, wherein an aqueous amphiphile-containing mixture comprising [a saturated] phospholipid is used to generate an aqueous dispersion of [air or] gas microbubbles.

Attached: Declaration of Dr. M. Schneider made May 7, 1998

REMARKS

This supplemental amendment follows an interview with Examiner Hollinden, the undersigned and others on April 27, 1998. Previously applicants have copied claims for purposes of interference from U.S. Patent Nos. 5,536,490 and 5,567,413 in amendments filed July 25 and October 16, 1997, respectively. These two patents arose from a single UK priority application which in turn led to a single U.S. application Serial No. 08/119,217 which applicant eventually issued as the '490 patent. The application and resulting patent both contain claims directed to articles per se, diagnostic compositions, methods of preparing diagnostic contrast agents and methods of using these ultrasound contrast agents.

On June 6, 1995, ahead of the GATT-related amendments to the Title 35 U.S. Code, Serial No. 08/466,615 was filed as a voluntary divisional of 08/119,217. This divisional application later issued as the '413 patent on October 22, 1996.